36 1958

Inquirer World Poll

Negro Progress Is Noted

By ELMO C. WILSON
Director, World Poll

LAST fall the press of the world was filled with accounts of the incidents in Little Rock, Ark., which arose out of the attempt by Governor Faubus to prevent intergration of white and Negro pupils in Little Rock's Central High.

The drama of this story so overshadowed the earlier series of United States Supreme Court decisions designed to remove segregation from American schools and public transportation, that it would be little wonder if the majority of citizens around the globe were convinced that the lot of the American Negro was steadily worsening.

EDUCATED SEE PROGRESS REAL

The fact is, however, that in eleven of twelve countries surveyed in Europe, South America and the Far East, World Poll found sizable groups ranging from 30 to 60 percent, who feel that the American Negro has been making good progress in recent years.

"Would you say the Negro in the United States has been gaining in recent years, losing or staying the same?"

	Gaining	Losing	Staying the same	No opinion
	%	%	%	%
Norway	58	3	16	18
Britain	49	3	25	14
Canada	48	12	21	20
India	48	8	15	29
Italy	46	6	14	34
Germany	39	9	21	31
Mexico	36	12	29	23
Austria	34	7	25	34
Brazil	33	3	15	49
Belgium	33	3	12	52
Japan	29	4	23	44
France	14	39	26	21

Question not asked in Mexico City, in Mexico; Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo in Brazil.

Norway stands out as the country most convinced of Negro gains, but perhaps the most interesting finding is the relatively large number in India who agree that the Negro in America has been forging ahead.

Few outside of France believe that the United States Negro has been losing ground. There were large numbers, ranging as high as 50 percent in Brazil and Belgium, who expressed no opinion on this question.

World Poll also queried the same respondents on their knowledge of the Supreme Court decisions affecting the Negro.

"From what you know, has the United States Supreme Court made any decision affecting the Negro? What was the decision?"

	Knows about decisions	Does not
	%	%
Norway	52	48
Canada	39	61
Britain	39	61
India	38	62
Germany	34	66
Italy	33	67
Mexico	31	69
Austria	30	70
Brazil	23	77
Japan	17	83
Belgium	15	85

Question not asked in France, "Mexico City in Mexico; Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo in Brazil.

Norwegians were best informed on this issue, with half the people aware of the recent Supreme Court decision affecting school integration. In most of the other countries, the proportions informed of these decisions ran between 30 and 40 percent, except in Belgium, Japan and Brazil, where roughly 80 percent didn't know of any such decisions. But in all countries, those who knew about the United States Supreme Court decision affecting integration of schools were significantly more likely to say that the Negro is gaining.

EDUCATED KNOW FACTS

Level of education greatly affects knowledge of the Supreme Court decision and consequently also affects opinions about whether the Negro is making progress in the United States.

By contrast, those who have not gone beyond primary school are more likely not to have heard of the decisions at all. In Belgium, for example, only six percent of those who have not gone beyond primary school knew about the decisions, and in most countries the proportion does not go above 33 percent (Again Norway is the exception—44 percent of Norwegians who have not gone beyond pri

EDUCATED SEE PROGRESS

Similarly, the majority of the university-trained in all countries but France and Japan felt that the Negro in the United State was gaining ground.

"Would you say the Negro in the United States has been gaining in recent years, losing, or staying the same?"

	AUSTRIA		
	Primary school	Secondary school	University
	%	%	%
Gaining	23	43	88
Losing	5	8	7
Staying the same	24	27	25
No opinion	48	22	10
Total	100	100	100

The views of Asian nations on these questions seem particularly crucial. On the whole, Indian opinion is very similar to European opinion. Forty-eight percent feel the Negro is making progress; this figure rises to 60 percent among those with university education.

The picture is a little different, however, in Japan. Here the "no opinion" was especially large, and the proportion who judged that the Negro was losing ground or standing still was roughly equal to the number who said he was making progress. As in other countries, however, the better educated groups were informed of the Supreme Court decision and are more likely to feel that he was making strides forward.

The Inquirer World Poll is conducted by International Research Associates, the worldwide survey organization.

Copyright, 1958, New York Herald-Tribune, Inc.

Note Progress In Nevada; Negroes Celebrate Birthday

CARSON CITY, Nev. — The sovereign state of Nevada was 94 years old Oct. 31 and for the first time in history Negroes helped celebrate her birthday.

In this sentence lies a significant and illuminating chapter of the national fight against injustice, discrimination and bigotry.

Nevada, in 1864, was made a state so hastily by President Lincoln that the scandalously few lawmakers had no time to draft their own constitution, so they adopted one that had worked very well in New York but (as has been discovered since) was hardly adaptable to the West either as it was then or as it has since become.

RESORTS BRING NEGROES

Until a few years ago there was no very urgent battle for civil rights in Nevada because there were very few Negroes living there. The building of luxury resorts in Las Vegas and Reno has abruptly changed the picture. Negroes flocked into the state to work either in service or as entertainers.

At the same time the integrated Armed Forces, with their various establishments, brought colored youngsters into the state in increasing numbers.

The colored population of Reno jumped from 1,200 in 1949 to 7,800 in 1958; that of Las Vegas from 230 to nearly 12,000.

Neither legislators nor the operators of luxury hotels and resorts saw the handwriting on the wall. Today this handwriting has been forcibly called to their attention.

NAACP IS VOCAL

The NAACP, suddenly vocal after years of quietude, has carried the battle for equal rights into the hitherto sacred precincts of the Riverside Hotel of Reno, sometimes called the Ritz of the West, and next year will carry it further into the quaint old capitol of Carson, which (unless Montpelier, Vt., wishes to contest) is the smallest capital in the United States.

The population of Carson City at this moment is roughly 7,300 persons, of whom one, a senior clerk in the Highway Department, is colored.

The city has at this writing 18 motels and four hotels. Four motels including one run by the president of the Nevada Hotel Association (the Desert Air Motel), accepts Negro guests. One hotel will accommodate colored citizens.

This percentage of roughly 25 is much better than that in either Las Vegas or Reno. A survey of motels is now being made in Reno (by the New China Club) and one is to be made in Las Vegas.

MOULIN ROUGE MILKED

The complaint made that when a luxury hotel resort was created for them in Las Vegas (the Moulin Rogue) the Negroes would not support it, is believed to be completely unfounded. The resort hotel closed not because of lack of patronage but because it was milked copiously by its own employees.

There is a saying in Nevada that only a professional gambler should run a casino. Joe Lewis is not a professional gambler and neither were his associates.

BEW HONG FONG

Side by side with the legal fight being carried next year to the legislature here is a movement of an entirely difefrent character which sa far had had singularly happy results.

It is the brain child of a Chinese, one Bew Hong ("Bill") Fong, who with his young Chinese wife owns the New China Club, the largest interracial casino in the state and the only one to have not one but two keno games.

Keno, called the "poor man's game" because of the possibilities of substantial winnings (as much as $2,000 for 35c), has long rivalled dice as a favorite among the colored patrons of the New China Club and three others in Reno which accept Negroes as players.

Keno is based on the thousand-years-old Chinese lottery but has suffered some modification in Nevada because the state constitution forbids lotteries. (This was because when the New York constitution, which Nevada copied, was written, the Louisiana Lottery scandal had just occured.)

Bill Fong, 37-years-old, a native of Canton and a graduate at California schools, opened his New China Club six years ago, in a small way (1 blackjack or 21 game, 1 craps table, 15 slot machines). Fong's original idea may have been to supply a club for San Francisco and Oakland Chinese. Many of these did patronize the club and still do.

INTERRACIAL POLICY

But soon Bill's rigid interracial policy ("You behave, you're welcome") became attractive to colored inhabitants of Reno and the Bay Area. At that time the Negro population of the Bay Area was leaping; from 6,500 in 1939 to 272,000 today.

These people looked longingly toward Reno, heart of one of the world's most beautiful playgrounds.

But when they came to Reno they discovered that the big casinos, like Harolds Club, Harrah's, the Mapes, Cal-Neva, the Riverside, the New Colony and others—all, in fact, except a small place on Skid Row, sometimes called Bottle Alley, owned by a 6 ft. 6 in. Negro named Bill Bailey and called the Harlem Club — were closed to any colored player except those in uniform.

Soldiers were graciously allowed to risk their money. But the wife or sweetheart on their arm was not permitted to play.

The big casinos remain prejudiced. But they are wavering. Bill Fong's place, three times enlarged and again to be enlarged this winter, is the reason. The New China Club is so crowded weekends with visitors from San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley, not to speak of Sacramento, that sometimes a man has to wait an hour to get his wager down.

The keno limit at the New China Club is $10,000 and is to be increased to $25,000 next year for both games. This means it will be possible for someone lucky enough to win $25,000 for an investment of only $1.10. Needless to say such winnings are rare but they do happen.

Fong's contribution to racial reform is somewhat refreshing in this day of high tempers and political campaigns. He thinks that the Negro's personality has not been sufficiently made known to the white race.

GAY, CAREFREE

"They are fundamentally a gay, carefree race — or they should be," Fong said recently. "Their contribution to world entertainment has been inestimable. They lead the world in folk music, taking the place formerly held by Russians and Central Europeans.

The biggest single success in Moscow (and elsewhere) two years ago was "Porgy and Bess" and Negro music is heard today on every continent.

"In athletic," Gong continued, "the Negro actually is pre-eminent in practically every field. In literature he is taking his place, contributing to our culture. In diplomacy the example of Ralph Bunche is only one of many.

"These are the people to whom a diminishing number of prejudiced people say, 'You cannot build your home next to mine'; 'You cannot come here to eat, to sleep, to gamble . . .' "

TWO-FOLD FIGHT

Fong, who himself has suffered from racial prejudice, thinks that the Negro fight for social equality in Nevada should be two-fold: political and cultural.

"Our Keno Queen contest, with its tradition-shattering parade thru downtown Reno, may be said to have broken the ice. The presence of a great human being, Jesse Owens, did a great deal to break barriers down.

"We are now determined that this broken ice shall not form again but that the defrosting shall continue until there is no ice at all. The way to do this — one of the ways — is to giv the Nevada Negroes an outlet for their native gaiety and exuberance, which in turn will be watched and enjoyed by the whole state."

Two weeks after the Keno Queen contest the Keno Queen picnic was held, at Pyramid Lake, to which all Negroes in the Reno area were invited. The last event to date was the parade held here October 31.

36 1958

World Poll

U. S. Negro Seen Advancing At Good Rate in Last Years

By Elmo C. Wilson
Director, World Poll

© 1958, N.Y. Herald Tribune Inc.

Last fall the press of the world was filled with accounts of the incidents in Little Rock, Ark., which arose out of the attempt by Governor Faubus to prevent integration of white and Negro pupils in Little Rock's Central High School.

The drama of this story so overshadowed the earlier series of United States Supreme Court decisions designed to remove segregation from American schools and public transportation, that it would be little wonder if the majority of citizens around the globe were convinced that the lot of the American Negro was steadily worsening.

Negro Progress Realized

The fact is, however, that in eleven of twelve countries surveyed in Europe, South America and the Far East, World-Poll found sizable groups ranging from 30 to 60 per cent, who feel that the American Negro has been making good progress in recent years.

Norway stands out as the country most convinced of Negro gains, but perhaps the most interesting finding is the relatively large number in India who agree that the Negro in America has been forging ahead.

Few outside of France believe that the United States Negro has been losing ground. There were large numbers, ranging as high as 50 per cent in Brazil and Belgium, who expressed no opinion on this question.

World-Poll also queried the same respondents on their knowledge of the Supreme Court decisions affecting the Negro.

"From what you know, has the United States Supreme Court made any decision affecting the Negro? What was the decision?"*

	Knows about decisions	Does not
	%	%
Norway	52	48
Canada	39	61
Britain	39	61
India	38	62
Germany	36	64
Italy	33	67
Mexico**	31	69
Austria	30	70
Brazil**	23	77
Japan	17	83
Belgium	15	85

*Question not asked in France.
**Mexico City in Mexico; Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo in Brazil.

Ignorant of Court Rulings

Norwegians were best informed on this issue, with half the people aware of the recent Supreme Court decision affecting school integration. In most of the other countries, the proportions informed of these decisions ran between 30 and 40 per cent, except in Belgium, Japan and Brazil, where roughly 80 per cent didn't know of any such decisions. But in all countries, those who know about the United States Supreme Court decision affecting integration of schools were significantly more likely to say that the Negro is gaining.

Educated Know Facts

Level of education greatly affects knowledge of the Supreme Court decision, and consequently also affects opinions about whether the Negro is making progress in the United States. In every country, half or more of those with university education—as high as 90 per cent in Norway—were informed about recent United States Supreme Court decisions affecting the Negro's status. By contrast, those who have not gone beyond primary school are more likely not to have heard of the decisions at all. In Belgium, for example, only six per cent of those who have not gone beyond primary school knew about the decisions, and in most countries the proportion does not go above 33 per cent. (Again Norway is the exception: 44 per cent of Norwegians who have not gone beyond primary school knew about the United States Supreme Court decisions.)

Educated See Progress

Similarly, the majority of the university-trained in all countries but France and Japan felt that the Negro in the United States is gaining ground, whereas those with only primary school education were much less likely to hold this view. The Austrian pattern is typical here.

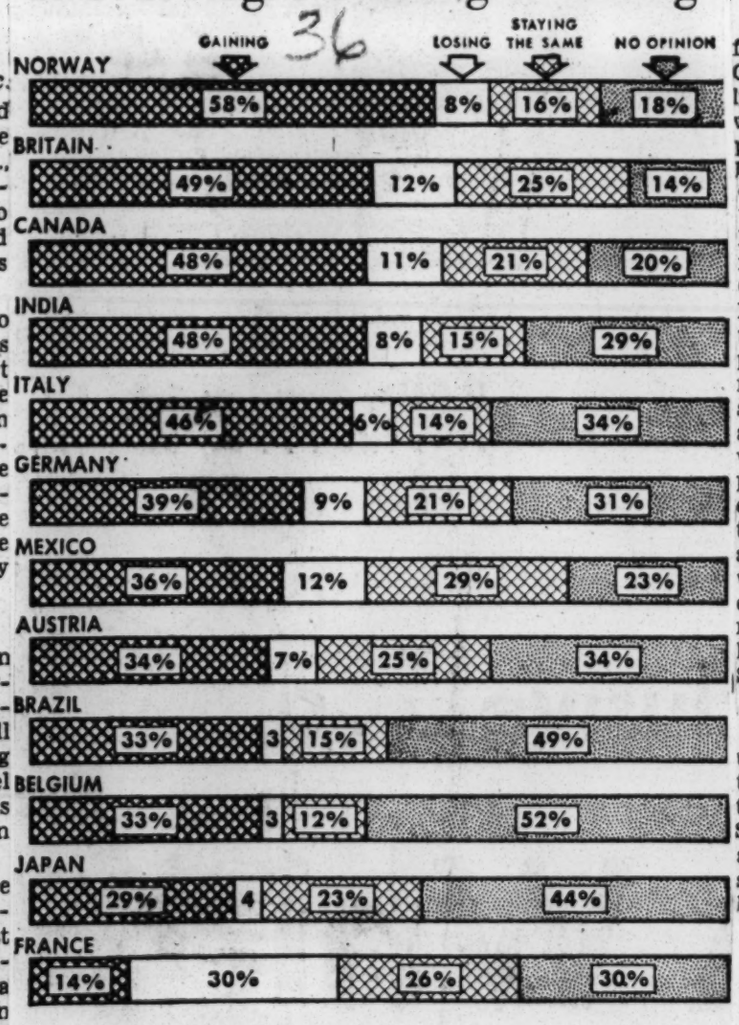
"Would you say the Negro in the United States has been gaining in recent years, losing, or staying the same?"

	AUSTRIA		
	Primary school	Secondary school	University
	%	%	%
Gaining	23	43	58
Losing	5	8	7
Staying the same	24	27	25
No opinion...	48	22	10
Total 100		100	100

The views of Asian nations on these questions seem particularly crucial. On the whole, Indian opinion is very similar to European opinion. Forty-eight per cent feel the Negro is making progress; this figure rises to 60 per cent among those with university education.

(The New York Herald Tribune World Poll is conducted by International Research Associates, the world-wide survey organization.)

Is U. S. Negro Gaining or Losing?



Results by country of poll on the question: Is the Negro in the United States gaining or losing?

36 1958

Secretary Mitchell Lauds Achievements Among Negroes

NEW YORK—Pointing out that third of U. S. Negroes own their homes and as a whole has a purchasing power of $6 billion dollars, Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell lauds achievements of the race in a Dec. Reader's Digest article, "The Negro Moves up."

Secretary Mitchell says the quiet revolution which has changed Negro economic status since World War II is "the most amazing social and economic story of this decade."

The number of Negro proprietors and managers has increased 131 per cent in the past 16 years, he reports. They own more than 200 insurance companies with five million policyholders, including members of all races. They also own and operate 44 banks and savings and loan institutions, with combined assets of more than 100 million dollars.

He tells the story of Asa T. Spaulding, vice-president of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Durham, N. C. who as a U. S. representative at last year's UNESCO conference in New Delhi, India; of S. B. Fuller, who 30 years ago started a business with $25 and now a firm employing 5000 salesmen, one fifth of them white; John Johnson, on relief 20 years ago and now publisher of Ebony.

And, he says, there are hundreds of success stories less spectacular but just as encouraging. There is Bernice Smith, copy chief of Gregory and House and Jansen, Inc., an advertising agency of Cleveland, Ohio; William C. Curtis a senior electrical engineer with RCA in Morristown, N. J.; Edward W. Rooke, former National Judge Advocate of AMVETS; Robert C. Weaver, State Rent Administrator of New York; Rosa M. Young, retired chief supervising nurse of Tuberculor Hospital of Los Angeles County General Hospital; Alma S. Jacobs, head librarian, Great Falls, Mont.; Arthur Burgess McCaw, former acting budget director, State of Nebraska; Dr. Grace Marilyn Jones, instructor in pediatrics of the University of Louisville Medical School in Kentucky.

Mitchell Says Minorities Progress Under Eisenhower

PATERSON, N. J.—(NNPA)—Minority groups have made greater progress under Eisenhower than under any President since Abraham Lincoln, Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell declared in addressing a Republican Lincoln Day dinner here Tuesday.

"The cohesion of the free community depends upon the reality of the ideals to which it subscribes," Mr. Mitchell said, adding:

"Every Little Rock weakens the free world to that extent.

"And every action to secure the rights of minority citizens strengthens it. In a world that is two-thirds non-white, the integrity of our ideals is more than just a national matter.

"The President was all too familiar with the years of lip-service that had been paid to civil rights, and the poverty of action that accompanied it.

"Like Lincoln, he acted—and acted as no other President since Lincoln's time.

"He made of the President's Committee on Government Contracts a real force for equality.

"He acted with decisive swiftness when the law of our land was openly and belligerently insulted in Little Rock.

"He asked and received from Congress authority to create a six-man Civil Rights Commission, to work out the civil rights problems in an atmosphere of discussion and investigation.

Under his leadership, the citizens of minority groups have entered great new dimensions of participation in the American economy, in our society, and as a result have made great contributions that otherwise would have gone wasted.

"Under no President since Lincoln have our minority groups made such advances Of all the achievements of the administration of Dwight Eisenhower, this one surely will shine forth throughout the years.

36 1958

PAGEANT TO DEPICT HISTORY OF NEGROES

1,000 Voice Choir To Take Part Feb. 12

A 1,000 voice choir will be heard in a pageant depicting the history of American Negroes on Feb. 12 at Mason Temple, 938 South Fifth.

The program will be presented at 8 p.m. under the direction of Dr. W. Herbert Brewster, pastor of East Trigg Avenue Baptist Church. Dr. Brewster wrote the script for the pageant.

The choir will be interdenominational and will include singers from many Memphis churches. Purpose of the pageant will be to raise money for a campaign to encourage Negroes to register to vote.

The pageant is sponsored by Negro civic and religious leaders, including Rev. H. H. Harper, Rev. G. A. Evans, Rev. C. H. Lee, Bishop J. O. Patterson, Rev. Henry C. Bunton, Rev. H. C. Nabrit, Lt. George W. Lee, J. T. Skinner, Dr. J. E. Walker, C. M. Terrell, and A. T. Westbrook.

Rev. Bunton said about 500 persons already have volunteered to sing in the choir. He said others interested in taking part should call Dr. Brewster at WHitehall 8-7378.

The Negro In American History

By H. E. GOODLOE

As has been quoted, the introduction of slavery at Jamestown solved the labor problem. Homes were built, churches were established and the population began to grow beyond the fondest imagination.

The thirteen colonies were roughly divided into three groups or sections. They are as follows:

1. The New England States
2. The Middle States
3. The Southern Colonies.

The difference in customs and ideals may be said to be brought about by climatic conditions, differences in the fertility of the soil and to a great extent, religious differences.

The writer has made the following observations religiously speaking. Thos New England States, composed of a large group of Puritans, were slave holders, but that section was poorly adapted to farming. The type of industry best suited for this section was manufacturing and slave labor proved to be unsatisfactory. From the standpoint of economics, slavery proved to be a liability to the New England section, and therefore slavery began to decrease and a large per cent of the population began to think in terms of "It is wrong in the sight of God for one group to hold another as slaves.

The South with its warm climate, rich plantations and different religious beliefs, found slavery profitable in that Negroes proved adaptable to climate which was also conducive to the growth of tobacco, cotton and the care of the plantation. They, the South also reconciled slavery with their religon by saying "God had intended that some human beings were to be huers of wood and drawers of water. In other words, their God encouraged in their endeavours.

But the writer wonders,

1. Had slavery been profitable in the New England world would that section have thought much of one human being holding another as a slave?

2. Had slavery proved unprofitable in the South, would that section thought too much about huers of wood and drawers of water? Just what would have been their attitude toward slavery?

What would have happened is food for thought. But below are some interesting facts.

1. Negroes furnished the original labor force for the new world

2. Negro slave trade stimulated commerce

3. Large productions of crops brought about by slave labor may be traced to the invention of steam, the use of steel and the cot ton gin.

4. By 1754 the slave population reached near 300,000.

Brought from Africa against their will, Negroes entered into American life in a way that his labor was fruitful and his loyalty meant much to the growth of the colonies.